



Childhood Connections

September 2, 2022

The First Year



The Office of Childhood (OOC) is one year old! We've been working this past year to build a strong foundation of childhood programs and services in Missouri. The time and effort put into this new office has been incredible, from state leaders to employees to professionals to stakeholders. We are grateful for your commitment and we are excited to continue this work.

In the first year, we transitioned nearly 150 employees into the office, reduced employee turnover, administered more than dozen childhood programs, and managed more than 200 contracts. In addition to our regular work, we made more than \$100 million in child care relief payments. Across the office, we established channels for stakeholder engagement, by forming the new Early Childhood State Advisory Council, maintaining this monthly newsletter and webinar series, and sending a weekly message with various childhood updates.

From all of us in the OOC, we want to Thank You for your patience and encouragement during this past year. This is really just the beginning for us — we look forward to working with you for many years as we continue to support children and families in our state.

Sincerely,
Pam Thomas
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Childhood

NEW! Child Care Regions Map

The OOC recently revised its [regional map for child care licensing offices](#). This map will also be used to help organize future training and technical assistance activities for child care providers and staff members.

NEW! T.E.A.C.H Early Childhood Missouri Scholarships Available

Do you want to earn an early childhood credential or degree at almost no cost? Would you like support



NEW! Early Childhood State Advisory Council (ESAC) Meeting

The next meeting of the ECSAC will be on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. Read more about the council meeting and how guests

from a specialist who can guide you through the process? The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Missouri Scholarship and the CDA Scholarship Project can help you advance your career! Child Care Aware® of Missouri offers numerous scholarship models to help you earn a National Child Development Associate credential, associate, bachelor's, and even a master's certificate.

Rooted in increasing the quality of child care in Missouri, these scholarships focus on increasing your education, compensation and retention. If you work in a licensed or license-exempt child care center or family child care, or as a Six or Fewer provider, you may be eligible for a scholarship. Enrollment is open year round so apply today. To learn more, visit mochildcareaware.org and click on the T.E.A.C.H. MISSOURI or CDA Scholarship Project logo.

REMINDER! Technical/Business Assistance Grants Available

This [funding opportunity](#) is available to subsidy and non-subsidy providers to purchase software and hardware to enhance business operations (e.g. surveillance equipment, subscription for business software program).

- Child care programs can apply only once for these funds.
- The deadline to apply is September 30, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.

UPDATED! Child Care Subsidy Checklists

We are excited to share the Child Care Subsidy webpage has been updated to be more user-friendly. The updates include new buttons to help navigate the pages and links to commonly-used resources. You can also find a series of simplified checklists to help with the subsidy application and renewal process. Check out our new [Child Care Subsidy webpage](#)!

NEW! Child Care Subsidy Rate Information

The results from the 2022 Market Rate Survey for child care subsidy are now available on the [Child Care and Development Fund \(CCDF\) webpage](#). Thank you to the 1,265 child care

can listen live on the [ECSAC webpage](#).

NEW! Statewide Afterschool Job Posting Webpage

Want to make a difference in the lives of school-age children? Check out [job postings](#) from afterschool and summer enrichment programs in Missouri. This resource is from the Missouri After School Network. Consider posting your job openings here!

NEW! "Pack n Play" Webinar Series

Missouri Parents Act presents the "Pack n Play" Webinar Series on September 12-16, 2022, for parents of young children with developmental delays or disabilities. This series includes fun, interactive webinars on parental rights, communicating your child's needs and more. [Register for Pack n Play here](#).

NEW! Resource: Children Learn Through Play

It's back to school time and many children are in classroom settings, but young children learn best when they are moving around not sitting at a desk.

Play is an essential element of young children's learning. New national resources to remind us how important interactive and

providers/directors/owners who completed the survey, we appreciate your participation! Staff in the OOC reviewed and analyzed these data in conjunction with [House Bill 3002](#) section 2.505 and DESE's allowable funds to set the subsidy rates for the upcoming year. An amended CCDF state plan will be posted on the website as soon as it is approved by the federal agency.

- We are pleased to announce that approximately 75 percent of child care providers will see an increase in their subsidy rates.
- The new rates will be in effect for services provided after October 1, 2022, and child care providers accepting subsidy payments will see the new rate in November payments.
- The new subsidy rates will be posted on the Child Care Subsidy website in September. We will alert you when they are posted.
- If you have a question about a subsidy payment, call 573-522-1385.

NEW! Subsidy Authorizations for Children Under Age Four

The Department of Social Services' (DSS) Family Support Division (FSD) and the OOC have been working to simplify the process for generating child care subsidy authorizations.

- Effective August 1, 2022, child care subsidy for all children age four (4) and under will be authorized as full-time care.
- Families will need to continue to provide income and verify the need for care, but the families' work schedules will no longer be required in order to be authorized for care for their children four (4) and under.

REMINDER! Missouri Parents as Teachers Collaborative Calls

The Missouri Parents as Teachers Association (MOPATA) Monthly Collaborative Calls are back for this program year. These calls provide conversations on a variety of topics relating to program implementation for supervisors, administrators and lead parent educators. The calls are scheduled for the first Monday of each month at 9:00 am and at 1:00 pm. Due to Labor Day, the call

unstructured playtime is for early learning. Check out this [article](#) and this [video](#) (66 min.) to learn more.

Resource for Serving Abused and Neglected Children

[FosterAdopt Connect](#) works alongside families such as grandparents, relatives, and other caregivers to provide one-on-one support while helping them navigate the complexities of the [child welfare system in Missouri](#) and Kansas foster care systems. FosterAdopt Connect also helps find solutions and community resources to benefit families and children to provide a stable and brighter future.

Free! Professional Development Opportunities

We are pleased to announce several training opportunities are available through a partnership with University of Missouri's Center for Excellence in Child Well-Being and funded by the Missouri Preschool Development Grant.

Registration is now open and there is no cost to attend the trainings.

- **Missouri Milestones Matter (MMM)** – open to all early childhood professionals.

is scheduled for September 12, 2022. To register for these monthly calls, visit the [MOPATA webpage](#), click on the “Grow” tab and scroll to Upcoming events.

NEW! MOPAT's Professional Learning Communities Available for all Programs

The [Missouri Parent Education Program Support Professional Learning Communities \(PLCs\)](#) information and registration is now available for programs to access. PLCs extend the opportunity to foster collaborative learning among parent education staff. Participating in these facilitated discussions helps to promote teamwork with a focus on reflective learning and best practices. Ten PLCs are scheduled around the state during September to share the exciting news and updates for FY 2023. This five-hour professional development opportunity will provide an in-depth focus on the 2022-23 program requirements.

REMINDER! Ensure all Employees Have Safe Sleep Training

Licensed providers that care for children under 12 months old — Did you know that all employees need to complete safe sleep training? Not only do your infant/toddler staff need safe sleep training but all employees, including the cook, van driver, director, owner, LLC Member, Board President, designee, etc. need safe sleep training, regardless of counting in ratio. This requirement goes beyond licensing rules, and is mandated by Section [210.223.4. RSMo](#). An employee, even if they are not a direct caregiver, must have knowledge of safe sleep training that will allow them to assist or interject, as needed, in the care of children under 12 months. Compliance Inspectors will be regularly checking for this training documentation during routine inspections.

Save the Date!

The 50th annual [Conference on the Young Years \(CYY\)](#) will be held at Tan-Tar-A Conference Center in Osage Beach Missouri on March 9-11, 2023. CYY provides professional development opportunities for teachers, home visitors, and administrators who work with children from birth through grade 3. The experiences children have in the early years are the foundation for future

Learn how to monitor developmental milestones and use the CDC's Learn the Signs Act Early materials to talk to families about concerns. Sign-up at [MMM Training](#).

- **Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)** – open to all early childhood professionals. Learn how to administer the ASQ and/or ASQ social-emotional screening tools to support child development. Sign-up at [ASQ Training](#).

Second Steps Early Learning Curriculum – only available to teachers in public, private, or other community program serving 3 to 5 year-olds. Learn how to teach social and emotional skills in a preschool classroom. Sign-up at [Second Steps for Preschools](#).

success. CYY is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the field of early childhood and help professionals make an even bigger impact with the children and families served, recognizing that what early childhood professionals do each and every day contributes to children's success in school and in life.

UPDATE! Senate Bill 683 Identifies Child Care Programs Required to Have a License

On July 1, 2022, Governor Parson signed [Senate Bill 683](#) into law. This bill changes parts of law that identify child care programs that are not required to have a license. The changes are as follows:

- Addition of "Day Camp" as a child care program that is not required to have a license. This program must meet the following:
 - Operates by a person or organization between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.;
 - Operates when a local school system is not in session requiring attendance;
 - Primary function of providing a recreational program;
 - For children five years of age or older who have enrolled in kindergarten or above;
- Does not provide child care for children under five years of age who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten in the same space or in the same outdoor play area at the same time.
- Updates to a "business that operates a child care program for the convenience of customers or employees" as a program that is not required to have a license. The following conditions changed:
 - The business provides child care for customers' or employees' children for four hours or less per day; and
 - Customers or employees remain on site while their children are being cared for;
- Updates to a "summer camp" as a child care program that is not required to have a license. The following condition changed:
 - Does not provide child care for children under five years of age in the same space or in the same outdoor play area at the same time.
- Updates to "Neighborhood Youth Development Program" as a child care program that is not required to have a license. The following condition changed:
 - For children five to eighteen years of age.
- If you care for children as allowed by this change in the law, you must explain that your program is not licensed to provide child care in the state of Missouri. Parents or guardians must sign a statement to confirm that they understand the child care program is not licensed.
 - This law requires you to keep these signed statements on file at your facility.

The changes outlined above take effect August 28, 2022. The OOC is working to update the program evaluation process. Please look for future communications about changes to this process as they become available.

Please contact the Regulation section at 573-751-2450 if you have questions about these changes.

Spotlight on Success

Spotlight on Success aims to share stories from local programs that are building community partnerships in order to strengthen and coordinate childhood programs.



Photo courtesy of Kari Johnson, Kradle to Krayon Childcare Owner.

This month's spotlight is on Kradle to Krayon located in the Lake Ozark area. Kradle to Krayon focuses on helping children develop a “Love for Learning” in a positive environment. Kradle to Krayon works with local programs for Kids Harbor and Hope House to collect donations of food, coats, gloves, and hats. Kradle to Krayon students also go on field trips to visit local nursing homes and attend Vacation Bible School programs throughout the summer in order to be a part of their local community efforts.

Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Update



The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A [recording](#) and the [PowerPoint slides](#) from the most recent webinar are available in case you are unable to attend and wish to hear the information.

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.

PDG B-5 Monthly Webinar

Join us for the next PDG B-5 Stakeholder webinar on September 27, 2022, from noon to 12:45 p.m. to learn more and ask questions. You can [access the webinar](#) in a Google Chrome or Safari web browser do not view in Internet Explorer. We hope you can participate!

Archived Editions of Childhood Connections

Visit the Office of Childhood website to find [previous editions](#) of the Childhood Connections.

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